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ABSTRACT

LaGuardia Community College (LCC) awarded associate degrees to 902 graduates in the class of 1981, an increase of 78 graduates from 1980. Each graduate was mailed a questionnaire shortly after graduation, requesting information on employment, salaries, and transfer to senior institutions. Responses from 618 (68.5%) of the graduates revealed: (1) between 1980 and 1981, there were increases in the number of graduates from the data processing (+40%), liberal arts (+27%), and business administration (+14%) programs, and decreases in the occupational therapy (-31%) and secretarial science (-12.9%) programs; (2) the transfer rate to senior colleges dropped from 62.8% in 1980 to 57.5% in 1981; (3) banking, law firms, and insurance companies attracted the largest number of graduates; (3) the average salary of a 1981 LCC graduate was $12,135, representing a 5.2% increase from 1980; and (4) LCC graduates had starting salaries an average of 7.8% higher than those of other two-year college graduates in the Middle Atlantic area. (AYC)

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LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

REPORT ON GRADUATE PLACEMENT

CLASS OF 1981

Prepared by the Placement Office
Division of Cooperative Education
Professor Jeffrey I. Weintraub
Director

LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

REPORT ON GRADUATE PLACEMENT - CLASS OF 1981

Prepared by Placement Office - Division of Cooperative Education

Prof. Jeffrey I. Weintraub, Director

BACKGROUND

LaGuardia Community College awarded Associate Degrees to 902 graduates in the Class of 1981. This represented an increase of 78 graduates (9.5%) from 1980.

The purpose of this report is to provide the college administration and faculty with an analysis of graduate activity. This includes information on graduates entering the labor market, which industries are hiring graduates, salary data, transfer information and comparison of LaGuardia graduates to those of comparable institutions.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. Information was obtained on 618 or 68.5% of the 902 graduates from a variety of sources.

2. The numbers of graduates within certain curricular areas increased sharply from 1980. Data Processing (+40%), Liberal Arts (+27%), Business Administration/Management (+14%). Curricular areas which showed marked decreases were Occupational Therapy (-31%), and Secretarial Science (-12.9%). (Table I).

3. Business Administration/Management curriculum graduated 178 which represents 19.7% of all graduates. This was the largest concentration of graduates in one curriculum. (Table II).

4. The transfer rate to senior colleges dropped slightly from 62.8% to 57.5%. (Table III)

5. Of all the students transferring, 53% are attending day classes and 47% are working full-time and attending evening classes. (Table IV)

6. LaGuardia graduates entered a broad range of industries upon entering the labor market. Banking, Law Firms and Insurance companies attracted the most graduates. (Table V)

7. Of the 618 graduates responding, 331 (53.5%) are employed full-time. 81% of these graduates are working at new positions obtained just prior to or after graduation. (Table VI)

8. The average salary of a 1981 LaGuardia graduate is $12,185 up 5.2% from 1980. Accounting, Data Processing and Human Services reported the largest salary increases. Liberal Arts and Business graduates starting salaries dropped slightly. (Table VII)

9. A comparison of entry level salaries of LaGuardia graduates to the Middle Atlantic Career Counseling Association's salary survey shows LaGuardia graduates average 7.8% higher starting salaries than other two year graduates in the Middle Atlantic Area. (Table VIII)

DATA COLLECTION

A total of 902 degrees were granted between January and September 1981. Each graduate was mailed a questionnaire shortly after graduation. After a period of three weeks if no response was received, a second questionnaire was mailed. The total response from both mailings was 449 (49.7%) with 31 (3.4%) of the questionnaires being returned as undeliverable.

An attempt was made to contact an additional 150 graduates by phone. We were able to successfully reach 51 graduates of that sample.

Additional data was obtained from the Admissions Office on students who intended to transfer. The data on these students is included in some of the transfer statistics, although there is no verification as to whether or not they actually are attending a senior college at the present time.

Additional data was also obtained from the Placement Office folders where placement data was obtained on students who were placed by the office and did not respond to the questionnaire.

In total there is post graduate data on 618 (68.5%) of the 902 1981 graduates.

GRADUATING CLASS OF 1981 BY CURRICULUM COMPARED TO THE CLASS OF 1980

Table I shows an overall increase in graduates of 9.5% over 1980. This represents the largest increase in graduates since 1975-76. The total of 902 is the largest in the history of the college.

The largest increase in a curricular area was Data Processing with a 40% rise, followed by Liberal Arts with a 27% increase. Only two curricular areas showed a decrease in graduates. Secretarial Science -12.9% and Occupational Therapy -31%.

TABLE I - GRADUATING CLASSES OF 1981 AND 1980 BY CURRICULUM

CURRICULUM	1981 GRADUATES	% OF GRADUATING CLASS	1980 GRADUATES	CHANGE
Liberal Arts	146	16.2	115	+27 %
Secretarial Science	168	18.6	193	-12.9%
Business Adm/Mgt.	178	19.7	156	+14 %
Data Processing	136	15.1	97	+40 %
Accounting	97	10.8	89	+ 9 %
Human Services	109	12.1	106	+ 2.8%
Occupational Therapy	24	2.7	35	-31 %
Bil Ed/Ed Assoc.	36	4.0	30	+20 %
Dietary Technician	6	.6	3	+100%
Mortuary Science	2	.2	---	-----
TOTAL	902	100%	824	+9.5%

Table II shows the percentage of graduates by curriculum for the years 1975-1981. The most significant change is Data Processing which has almost doubled in the past four years. Most curricular areas demonstrate limited fluctuation from year to year. In the last three years, three different curricular areas (Liberal Arts 1979, Secretarial Science 1980, Business Administration/Management 1981) have had the greatest percentage of graduates.

TABLE II - GRADUATING CLASSES OF 1975-81 BY CURRICULUM

	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975
Liberal Arts	16.2%	14.0%	19.3%	25.1%	23.5%	25.1%	26.6%
Secretarial Science	18.6%	23.4%	18.1%	16.5%	17.9%	14.7%	13.5%
Business Adm./Mgt.	19.7%	18.9%	17.2%	18.1%	19.4%	16.6%	17.3%
Data Processing	15.1%	11.8%	12.5%	7.8%	5.9%	8.4%	8.5%
Accounting	10.8%	10.8%	12.0%	9.6%	10.0%	9.8%	10.5%
Human Services	12.1%	12.9%	11.0%	11.8%	11.4%	14.1%	12.0%
Occupational Therapy	2.7%	4.2%	5.3%	5.0%	3.4%	3.4%	3.1%
Ed Assoc/Bil Ed Assoc.	4.0%	3.7%	4.6%	6.1%	7.1%	7.9%	9.0%
Dietary Technician	.6%	.3%	---	---	---	---	---
Mortuary Science	.2%	---	---	---	---	---	---

TRANSFER TO SENIOR COLLEGE

Table III shows the percentage of graduates by curriculum who are recorded as transferring to a senior college. This table was compiled from questionnaires mailed to all graduates, telephone calls to graduates and transfer applications provided by the Admissions Office. Of the 449 students responding to the questionnaire 213 indicated that they have transferred to a senior college. An additional 114 graduates who did not respond by mail had filled out transfer applications provided by the Admissions Office. Although there is no information available as to whether or not these 114 graduates actually registered and are attending a senior college, these 114 students are counted as transferees. A survey of students who responded to the survey by mail compared to the transfer applications indicates that 97% of the graduates who filled out a transfer application and returned our questionnaire are attending a senior college. Of the 51 students contacted by phone, 28 are attending a senior college.

The data reveals little change in the transfer patterns of LaGuardia graduates. The overall transfer rate has been stable over the past three years with some fluctuation within curricular areas.

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TABLE III - PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES APPLYING FOR TRANSFER TO SENIOR COLLEGES BY CURRICULUM 1973-1981

CURRICULUM	1981 # of Grads Responding	1981 # of Grads Transferring	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973
Liberal Arts	107	75	70.1%	75.3%	71.0%	60.0%	37.0%	53.0%	76.0%	80.0%	91.0%
Secretarial Science	120	33	33.0%	44.3%	34.5%	21.0%	4.0%	22.0%	34.0%	14.0%	33.0%
Business Adm/Mgt.	127	77	60.6%	72.9%	75.0%	49.0%	48.0%	50.0%	68.0%	75.0%	54.0%
Human Services	79	52	65.8%	82.8%	80.0%	55.0%	49.0%	46.0%	56.0%	88.0%	0.0%
Accounting	77	50	64.9%	68.0%	66.0%	54.0%	44.0%	54.0%	76.0%	50.0%	59.0%
Data Processing	89	45	50.5%	50.0%	41.2%	31.0%	19.0%	30.0%	43.0%	38.0%	44.0%
Occupational Therapy	13	3	23.1%	28.6%	29.0%	28.0%	8.0%	26.0%	36.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bil Ed/Ed Assoc.	19	15	79.0%	66.0%	73.0%	56.0%	31.0%	69.8%	62.5%	88.0%	44.0%
Dietary Technician	6	5	83.3%	100.0%	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mortuary Science	1	-	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL	618	355	57.5%	62.8%	59.3%	46.0%	32.0%	45.0%	62.0%	65.0%	62.0%

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Table IV reflects the employment status of the graduates who transferred to a senior college. For this table only the 114 graduates whose data was supplied by transfer applications only have been separated as there is no way to ascertain what their employment status is.

47% of the transferees report that they're working full-time and attending school in the evening. The figure varies widely within curricular areas. 67% of the Accounting graduates are working full-time and attending school at night as are 56% of the Data Processing graduates. Liberal Arts graduates report the lowest rate of work/evening classes transferees at 31%.

TABLE IV - BREAKOUT OF TRANSFEREES BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	TRANSFERRED FULL-TIME NOT WORKING	TRANSFERRED FULL-TIME WORKING F/T	TRANSFERRED EVENING WORKING F/T
Liberal Arts	29	7	16
Secretarial Science	12	--	9
Business Adm/Mgt.	19	10	26
Data Processing	11	3	18
Accounting	10	2	25
Human Services	13	4	10
Occupational Therapy	1	--	--
Ed Assoc/Bil Ed.	4	1	6
Dietary Technician	3	--	2
Mortuary Science	--	--	--
TOTAL	102	27	112
	(42%)	(11%)	(47%)

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PLACEMENT BY INDUSTRY

Table V shows that of the 288 Liberal Arts and Business graduates employed full-time after graduation, 236 were determined to be entry level positions obtained just prior to or just after graduation. This table reflects the wide range of industries that have hired LaGuardia graduates.

TABLE V - PLACEMENTS BY INDUSTRY BY CURRICULUM

INDUSTRY	L.A.	BUS.	ACCT.	S.S.	D.P.	TOTAL
Banking	3	13	6	3	15	40
Finance	4	7	8	1	1	21
C.P.A.	--	1	3	1	--	5
Ed/Health	1	3	--	3	4	11
Manufacturing	--	5	2	7	5	19
Government	4	1	2	9	1	17
Legal	3	1	1	18	1	24
Retail	4	6	3	3	2	18
Publishing	--	--	1	1	--	2
Insurance	1	4	7	7	1	20
Entertainment/Arts	--	4	2	6	--	12
Advertising	--	1	--	1	1	3
Hotels	--	--	--	2	--	2
Communication	--	1	4	--	1	6
Real Estate	--	1	--	1	--	2
Data Processing	--	--	--	--	9	9
Utilities	1	3	--	3	--	7
Other	3	--	1	6	8	18
TOTAL	24	51	40	72	49	236

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PATHS OF LaGUARDIA GRADUATES

Table VI indicates the post graduate directions of the class of 1981 by curricular area. Graduates of Secretarial Science, Occupational Therapy, Human Services, Data Processing and Accounting are more likely to need placement assistance upon graduation than Business or Liberal Arts students, many of whom, are employed while attending and are not looking to change jobs upon graduation. These figures do not add up across because a number of students obtained full-time positions and are attending college in the evening. (See Table IV)

TABLE VI - PATHS OF LaGUARDIA GRADUATES BY CURRICULUM

Curriculum	#of Grads	#of Grads Resp.	Grads Emp. New Job[1]	Grads Emp. Exist. Job	Sr. College Trans.[2]	Not in Labor Market[3]	Seeking Employ.[4]	No Info.
Liberal Arts	146	107	24	17	75	2	7	39
Secretarial Science	168	100	72	2	33	1	2	68
Business Adm/Mgt.	178	127	51	17	77	3	4	51
Data Processing	136	89	49	9	45	--	9	47
Accounting	97	77	40	7	50	1	4	20
Human Services	109	79	18	6	52	1	8	30
Occupational Therapy	24	13	9	--	3	--	1	11
Ed Assoc/Bil Ed Assoc.	36	19	5	3	15	--	2	17
Dietary Technician	6	6	1	--	5	--	1	0
Mortuary Science	2	1	1	--	--	--	--	1
TOTAL	902	618	270	61	355	8	38	284

1. A new job is defined as a position a graduate has obtained just prior to, or after graduation. This includes the continuation of an internship into permanent employment.
2. See Table IV for breakdown of day or evening attendance.
3. The graduates are not in the labor market or continuing their education by choice. Some are Senior Citizens, others are raising families, etc.
4. All students in the category have been contacted by a counselor.

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SALARY DATA

Table VII shows salary data for 263 of 331 employed graduates. They are the graduates who indicated that their current job was obtained just prior to or after graduation. Salaries of the other 68 graduates are not included in this table as they represent jobs which were obtained prior to entering LaGuardia. Salaries of Educational Associates, Bilingual Education Associates, Dietary Technician and Mortuary Science graduates are also not included.

Although salaries rose in all curricular areas but two (Liberal Arts and Business) the gain was significantly smaller than in past years. Overall LaGuardia graduates salaries increased by 5.2% over 1980 graduates. The average salary for a 1981 LaGuardia graduate was $12,185.

TABLE VII SALARY BY CURRICULUM FOR 1981 GRADUATES

Curriculum	Emp. Grads	Salary Data Provided	1981 Salary Range	1981 Av. Salary	% of Grads Above/Below Curriculum Mean Salary	% of Grads reporting salary greater than $10,000	1980 Average Salary	% Change
Liberal Arts	24	19	$ 7,120-15,400	$11,075	58/42	74%	$11,865	- 6.6%
Business Adm/Mgt.	51	45	7,313-20,800	11,424	49/51	71%	11,722	- 2.5%
Accounting	40	36	9,106-18,200	11,827	47/53	78%	10,046	+17.7%
Secretarial Science	72	64	8,000-17,420	12,446	47/53	92%	11,817	+ 5.3%
Occupational Therapy	9	8	10,000-15,500	12,795	37/63	100%	12,615	+ 1.4%
Human Services	18	16	9,262-15,165	11,049	44/56	69%	9,142	+20.8%
Data Processing (All Grads)	49	44	7,800-26,000	13,655	46/54	86%	13,324	+ 2.5%
Data Processing (Operations)	34	31	7,800-19,000	12,340	52/48	81%	11,067	+11.5%
Data Processing	15	13	12,000-26,000	16,792	46/54	100%	15,440	+ 8.7%
TOTAL	263	232	$ 7,120-26,000	$12,185		78%	$11,584	+ 5.2%

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SALARY DATA BY METHOD OF CONTACT

For the first time this year a random selection of graduates who did not respond to the two questionnaire mailings were contacted by phone. Fifty one graduates were contacted of which 24 were employed in new positions. All 24 graduates provided salary data and the average starting salary for these 24 graduates was $12,380. The average starting salary reported by the 208 graduates filling out the questionnaire was $12,163, a difference of $217 or 1.8%

SALARY DATA FOR COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS

As reported in Table VII the average starting salary for the 15 Data Processing graduates securing a programming related position was $16,792. Because the college doesn't distinguish between Programming and Operations majors, it is very difficult to factor out which option a graduate took. Although 15 graduates secured programming positions, this does not suggest that these were the only programming graduates. These were the programming graduates who secured a programming position. The remainder of the Data Processing graduates secured operations related positions, some of whom may have been programming majors.

A further analysis was performed on the 15 students who reported securing a programming position. The graduates G.P.A.'s ranged from 2.95 to 3.94 with an average G.P.A. of 3.45. In Data Processing courses the students' averages ranged from 2.85 to 4.00 with a mean of 3.67. Four of these graduates attained a perfect G.P.A. of 4.00 in their major.

Clearly these graduates were superior students with excellent programming abilities. Although this high paying "glamor" field attracts many students it appears that companies when hiring programmers are being highly selective and skimming off only the very best students.

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LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES SALARIES COMPARED TO THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC CAREER COUNSELING ASSOCIATION SALARY SURVEY (MACCA)

Table VIII is a comparison of LaGuardia graduates entry level salaries to a salary survey conducted by MACCA which represents close to 50 Community Colleges in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania. For the first time the average MACCA salary rose at a greater rate (+14.9) than the average LaGuardia graduate (+5.2%). LaGuardia graduates salaries were higher in Business, Accounting and Secretarial Science while MACCA graduates were higher in Liberal Arts and Data Processing. Overall LaGuardia graduates salaries are 7.8% higher than those from the institutions MACCA surveyed.

TABLE VIII

	LaGUARDIA			MACCA			
CURRICULUM	RANGE	AV. 1981 SALARY	%CHANGE FROM '80	RANGE	AV. 1981 SALARY	%CHANGE FROM '80	LaG. vs MACCA SALARY DIFFERENCE
Bus. Adm/Mgt.	$7,313-20,800	$11,424	- 2.5%	$ 7,540-13,000	$10,724	+ 4.0%	+ 6.5%
Accounting	9,106-18,200	11,827	+17.7%	8,320-12,480	10,452	+10.4%	+13.1%
Secretarial Science	8,000-17,420	12,446	+ 5.3%	8,580-12,480	10,504	+23.1%	+18.5%
Liberal Arts	7,120-15,400	11,075	- 6.6%	8,424-14,516	11,726	+10.2%	- 5.5%
Data Processing	7,800-26,000	13,65[illegible]	+ 2.5%	11,960-16,432	[illegible]4,144	+ 7.9%	- 3.4%
AVERAGE SALARY		$12,185	+ 5.2%		$11,296	+14.9%	+7.8%

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